

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org

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Greetings.

I have had the challenge, even blessing, of observing and commenting on the 67th Legislative Session through the *Legislative WATCH*. I have heard some reassuring things from conservative legislators. I have heard some alarming things from others.

I am more convinced than ever that how you view the world matters a great deal! Many years ago I took a course offered by our local Christian school, *Understanding the Times*. The course took an in-depth look at the various ways in which we view the world. It is then that I began to think much more deeply about how I viewed the world. I could quote lots of Bible verses, but when push came to shove, did I actually believe:

- that all things work out for good
- that God is sovereign

- that the Ten Commandments were more than suggestions
- that being a disciple of Christ requires me to daily take up my cross, deny self, and follow hard after Jesus?

The way I lived and thought really began to change. Once I got a deep understanding of God's sovereignty I actually felt a sense of great relief. And peace. All this is to say, if you want to raise your children with a biblical worldview then be intentional about it. Check out Summit Ministries or Nehemiah Institute. Study God's Word with the intent of finding out who He is, then you will find out what He wants you to believe and how He wants you to live. He also makes it clear who you are.

It matters. It matters a great deal.

Gail



The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.
We rely on memberships
and donations to keep operating.



The View From My Window



The NDHSA did an upgrade with our web provider this past month. This upgrade should make it easier to use with phones or tablets. If you go to the website, you will see that I have also been working at up-dating information and making the most commonly used tabs accessible with a push of a button (i.e. the Statement of Intent). All the changes so far have been made on the public side of the site.

In April I am hoping to do some updating on the member's side as well so that some of the "perks" for being a member are more obvious. Last fall we added a NDHSA planner and hopefully can continue that next year. We also are an affiliate of schoolhouseteachers.com and HSLDA. Our members get discounts with both of these organizations.

We are currently pursuing affiliate status with the Institute for Excellence in Writing and Patriot Academy, both would then offer discounts to NDHSA members.

Other resources on our member page are a free download of the North Dakota Guide to Homeschooling High School, a listing of testing services, a membership card to use for teacher discounts in various businesses and a list of online homeschool programs.

Any active NDHSA member can access the member portion of the website once they have filled at the online form and set up a username and password. If you aren't sure if your membership is active, just contact the office and I can look that up for you. If you are a current member, but have not set up a password, go to the "Request Membership" tab on the website, Fill out the information, create a user name and password, when the last question asks, "How will you pay" check the box that says "I am a current member".

If anyone has suggestions for what you would like to see on the website just email me at office@ndhsa.org and we will see what we can do!

BOARD COLUMN



David and Liz Buck

By Liz Buck

Hello from the “newbies” of your NDHSA board! We are David and Elizabeth Buck and we live on a farm in Wing, North Dakota. Dave works at Farm Credit Services of Mandan and Liz homeschools and works part time. We have been homeschooling for almost 13 years. We have three boys: Isaac (17), Graham (13) and Grayson (9). We feel privileged and humbled that we have been asked to serve on your board. We look forward to many wonderful years ahead for our association.

Have you hit the proverbial “wall” yet this year? Whether this is your first or your twenty-first year homeschooling, we all hit a wall (sometimes several) throughout the school year. This time of year is prone to lots of school fatigue at our house. Even though we have been blessed by a mild winter this year, we long for the warm, sunny days of summer with its more relaxed schedule.

I recently have been reading through the book of Ecclesiastes, and this verse stood out to me: “It is better to finish something than to start it.” (7:8) As hard as it sometimes is to start school each fall after a relaxing and fun summer, finishing the year strong each spring is usually even harder. This time of the year I tend to see myself as a marathon runner in the last mile. I may be tired, I may be broken or bloody, but I WILL finish.

Here are some things that have gotten me through times I want to throw in the towel:

- Remember, you are in a spiritual battle. If you are intent on teaching your children with a Biblical worldview, you will be opposed. The fatigue we sometimes feel can be spiritual in nature. Keep your eyes focused on the author and finisher of your faith. And, although we don’t run this race to receive a reward necessarily, sometimes it helps to remember there IS a reward for finishing well. “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” I want to hear Him tell me “Well done” someday!
- Look back at your year so far and take note (literally!) of everything you have done and accomplished so far. Sometimes we focus on what is left to do rather than focusing on what we have already achieved.
- When taking note of what you have accomplished, also take note of what has not worked this year and what you want to do differently next year. Remember, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies are NEW EVERY MORNING.” We serve a God who believes in “do-overs!” And no, you don’t have to finish every last page of the curriculum you purchased!
- Are you connected with a support group? I know that if I am feeling burned out, many times it is because I have not been connected with a community of like-minded families. NDHSA has many support groups throughout ND. If you don’t have one, start one! We need each other!
- Keep your expectations realistic. It’s OK if not every day is super productive. There are plenty of days that ARE productive and that is what ultimately matters! Part of the beauty of homeschooling is flexibility!
- Set a definite day you will be done for the year. Knowing how much time is left in the school year might help you to charge ahead.

If you intent on teaching your children with a Biblical worldview, you will be opposed.

***Keep your heads up, friends,
the finish line is in sight!***



Here is a perk to our NDHSA members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

Memberships, donations and convention income is what keeps the NDHSA operational. If God so leads, a year-end gift will be greatly appreciated and carefully used on behalf of ND parent educators.

For legal assistance JOIN Home School Legal Defense Association. www.hslda.org

Find a support group near you at: www.ndhsa.org
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**
Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check expiration dates.



With SchoolhouseTeachers.com, you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](http://PreschoolPlayground) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through 12th grade! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.



The Importance of Music

If you follow me on FB you have noticed that I post (sometimes) repeatedly YouTube music videos. I believe God made us to sing. Some He made to sing really well like my long-time friend J.D. Some He gave voices that blend nicely with others. And then there's folks like me: a loud voice, not a particularly good voice, but a loud voice. He gave my husband a beautiful voice and standing next to him in church I often quit singing just so I can hear him.

Not convinced? Here's a book you might want to read during your "free time" this summer. Taken from Diana Waring's *Beyond Survival* (which is another book you may want to read):

Edith Schaeffer's *Forever Music*, is a book worth reading. In her own inimitable style, Mrs. Schaeffer weaves together the stories of the building of a Steinway baby grand piano and the building of her own marriage to Dr. Francis Schaeffer. Within this amazing story, we are taken backstage to discover how a master piano technician, Franz Mohr, tunes and cares for the Steinway concert grands available to performing artists worldwide. Beyond being a wonderful, miraculous story in its own right, this book explores the importance of music to people, the importance of music to God, and the eternal nature of music in worship.

One final tip: look up (could be an assignment!) some of the truly remarkable stories behind some of our favorite hymns. It's inspiring.



Do you have an animal lover?

Summer suggestions:

- The James Herriot books (I have read them several times); true stories of an English vet. What fun. What hard work.
- Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era by Sterling North. (I loved this one!)
- Smoky the Cow Horse by Will James. (Tough cowboy, tough horse.)
- Animal Heroes by Sandra Markle; (haven't read this but it looks very interesting); true stories of rescue!

Tips: How about learning to draw animals? Lots of instructions on line. Summer job at the zoo? How about becoming a summer dog-walker or pet-sitter? If old enough you could get a job at a pet groomers (Boy! Are we thankful for ours.) Travel via Google maps around the world. If you go to Kenya or Uganda you will see lots of animals. I have seen cheetah, lion, zebra, giraffe, bush pigs, African buffalos, all types of fleet footed grazers, elephants, rhinos, hippopotamuses, even crocs. If interested email me, I'll give you some tips.

Quotes

from "Why Homeschool?" by Marlin Detweiler, president of Veritas Press (VeritasPress.com) snatched from the Summer 2020 issue of *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine. These quarterly magazines are so full of great information that it takes me several months to get through them. What a blessing!

- Ideological reasons [to homeschool] can be religious or academic. You most likely would agree that the most significant historical event is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I didn't learn that from my public school education. It matters who writes the curriculum.
- It doesn't take much study to see that the educational standards in American public schools today are lacking when compared to many other countries and by historical standards. You are in good company to want better for your children. Thanks to those who went before us, we now have that right.
- Prayer is gone from the public schools. It may never return. Most Bible reading is gone, too. History is taught from a vantage point that many don't actually believe to be accurate.
- Thankfully, we have the right to homeschool because a few insightful leaders recognized that our children are just that, ours, given to us by God. They are not the state's to do with as it pleases.

In North Dakota we are famous for all the court cases during the early years of homeschooling when it was still considered illegal by the state. Folks like the Birsts, Dagleys, Tomans, Shavers, Patzers and Larsens, the Reimches and the Lunds, and the Melins, Andersons, Brewers and VanInwagens. These and more are the pioneers of homeschooling in ND.

The NDHSA is seeking a **part time office administrator/editor.**

Duties would include answering the phone, emails and mail, keeping the website up-to-date, maintaining the QuickBooks database, doing a monthly e-newsletter and editing other NDHSA publications.

Contact Theresa at the office (701-662-6347) if you are interested or have questions.

Snatched from *Normal Kingdom Business* by Andree Seu

Death by Detail

A pitfall of being busy is that one tends to look down on others who "waste" time in idle pursuits--such as having conversations, going out to dinner, or coloring unicorns with 8-year-olds. Perhaps a self-study on the Martha and Mary story of Luke 10:38-42 is in order. When I have time.

I sense there is something wrong with a day whose success is predicated on an allowance of 30 seconds per conversation. Jesus brooked interruptions (Matthew 14:13-14). I am groping toward some solutions: such as, henceforth, not to let the "perfect" be the enemy of the "good" (the friend I cannot invite for dinner I will at least phone), and to meditate more on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Moreover, a nebulous insight is taking shape: that **there is really only one priority in life--the glory of God--and under that its several distributions, and necessary trade-offs, to sort out "with fear and trembling."**

Any help in fleshing this out will be greatly appreciated; just contact my e-mail. I've gotta run.

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NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God, the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

The Eclectic Report

Gail M. Biby, editor

The *Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts and memberships of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for almost 30 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her: billbiby@msn.com. She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

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North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund

2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington

2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer

2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel

2018 Linus & Anna Evinger

2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer

2020 Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.

2021 Marvin & Connie Wolf, Doug and Ruth Bernston



PRAYER

- **PRAY** for those facing '21 without a dear one.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen us; to give us courage; to help us daily through the power of His Spirit. Make us wise, oh, God.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. THEY ARE LOST!
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray to be faithful, obedient, willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for all who are confined in nursing homes. Pray for the safety and comfort of those confined.
- **ASK GOD** for wisdom in all our pursuits.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom. For the person of God's choosing for the positions opening this summer.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal and state legislation.
- **PRAY** for the school girls snatched by militants in Nigeria. Grim futures.
- **INTERCEDE** for godly men and women in the ND Legislature. Pray for their stamina, encouragement, and power to stay the course.

BLESS the Lord at all times. May His praise be continually in our mouths.